

REMARKS:

By the present amendment, claims 1, 13, 14, 18, 20 and 21 have been amended, and claim 21 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1 – 11 and 13 – 22 are currently pending, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Claims 1, 18 and 21 have been amended to eliminate any uncertainty as to whether the combination with the manually operable apparatus is recited in the present claims. Accordingly, at least this issue is eliminated with respect to any future appeal. Furthermore, claims 1, 18 and 21 have also been amended to recite, inter alia, that “wherein said elongated member of at least one of said discrete tools is configured with at least one elongated path that facilitates rearward movement, along said path, of material being cut from the workpiece by said cutting edge, as well as removal of the material being cut”, which is neither taught nor suggested by any of the applied prior art. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 18 and 21 can be found in Paragraphs [0010], [0015], [0016], [0017], [0042] and [0043] of Applicants’ specification, and in Figure 5 of Applicants’ drawings. Claims 13, 14 and 20 have been amended to be consistent with the amendments to claims 18 and 21, and new claim 22 has been added to include the subject matter of claim 13 and to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1, 18 and 21 are believed to be allowable at least for the above reason, in addition to the reasons set forth in the arguments in the Brief and Reply Brief.

Moreover, dependent claims 2 – 11, 13 – 17, 19 and 22 are believed to be patentable due to their own limitations, as well as by their dependency from respective allowable independent claims 1, 18 and 21.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present amendment is proper and that none of the references of record either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious the Applicants' invention as recited in each of claims 1 -11 and 13 – 22. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out in the present Remarks and previously in the Brief and the Reply Brief.

Accordingly, consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attached thereto.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

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Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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